



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

Bobby J. Pierce

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DISTRICT 19

Counties:

Grant County

Part Hot Spring County

Part Dallas County

COMMITTEES

Revenue and Taxation

Income Taxes - Personal and

Corporate Subcommittee

Aging, Children and Youth,

Legislative and Military Affairs

Legislative, Military and Veterans

Affairs Subcommittee

Rules

January 11, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and FCC Commissioners:

I have learned that the FCC may adopt new regulations on the Internet and I am writing to ask that you take care not to harm rural broadband service. As a legislator representing a rural district in Arkansas, I want broadband available to everyone in my district and elsewhere. My concern is that new regulations do not appear to be needed, and they may backfire by slowing down broadband expansion.

Here is one example of how we use broadband in my community: In 2007 the Sheridan, AR, School District joined a pilot program that uses cellular service to connect some of its school buses with the Internet. Wireless equipment on those buses lets students use laptop computers to go online and work on courses like pre-algebra, algebra and Advanced Placement biology courses. Mobile broadband turned what was a long and mostly unproductive bus ride into a time for independent study. Approximately 70 percent of our state's public school students ride buses, and those buses travel nearly a quarter-million miles a day. Think of the enormous potential if more buses could be made into mobile classrooms.

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That story shows the kind of innovation and investment that we need across the country. Companies have spent billions to build their broadband networks but millions of people, including some of those student bus riders, still don't have Internet service at home. The FCC can help change that by helping to remove barriers that keep people from having access to broadband – and using it once it's available.

I know that 100 percent broadband access is one of your goals, and I encourage you to give it first priority. However, I don't see how more regulation will encourage investment and innovation like I've just described. Instead, more regulation could slow down Internet growth, and that would hurt people in my district as well as the rest of the country. I strongly encourage you to study the issue of Internet regulation very carefully, and be certain that there is a real need for any new government controls.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobby J. Pierce".

Bobby J. Pierce
State Representative

BJP/adm